

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Saturday, July 13, 1968 -- 1:20 p.m.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Czechoslovakia Situation Report

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BY CG 6-7 co

The Soviets have announced that Brezhnev and Podgorny are in Warsaw for a meeting with their socialist allies (presumably East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria -- but not the Czechs). Kosygin is still in Sweden, but expected to join the meeting this afternoon.

Soviet and East German newspapers are holding space for an important statement to be issued tonight. We have no confirmation that it relates to Czechoslovakia -- as it could also relate to Germany -- but one can speculate that it will represent a sharp diplomatic escalation and pressure play against the Czechs.

The Czech government has released a detailed description -- including localities -- of the Soviet withdrawal, which the Czechs say has started.

[REDACTED]

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

The "operation" of the Peoples Militia scheduled to start last night may have been a civil defense drill. We do not know whether the Peoples Militia is presently mobilized or deactivated. (According to General Sejna, it is not a formidable military force in comparison with the Czech army or police.)

Our Embassy in Prague reports a slight abatement of tension in the city. Foreign Minister Hajek's interview (reported in today's New York Times) is inconclusive. Interestingly, Hajek was only willing to say that "he hoped" that there was no chance of Soviet intervention.

The Czech position continues to be that they will be happy to hold bilateral talks with their allies, but are not prepared to be summoned to a conclave like the Dresden Summit.

Walt Rostow

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